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# Tracking the CIA

Acting on INPOLSE, Your Intrepid Reporters  
Stalk the CIA and Hit Paydirt

The stately, four-story Washington town house bore absolutely no external markings to identify it as the home of International Police Services, Inc., a company that we had been investigating on a tip that it was a CIA proprietary—or secretly owned front company. Large shutters blocked the view through the windows. There was no mailbox. The building looked like a funeral home in hiding, mum and withdrawn.

There was a surprising bustle of activity outside the back entrance, however, as workers of all kinds—plumbers, carpenters, electricians, painters—ambled in and out of the building. Movers had emptied the place the day before, they said, taking truckloads of equipment to an unknown destination, and the repairmen were now cleaning up for the next occupants. The telephone had been disconnected, with no forwarding number. International Police Services (INPOLSE) had vanished at the moment we had found it.

Inside the vacant building, there were remnants of what looked to have been a specialized school. Three of the rooms were stripped laboratories, with formica tabletops around the perimeter and sinks with arching faucets. One lab had a formica display table in the middle, and another was built around a long, shallow basin of stainless steel, which we guessed had been used for developing film.

In addition to the labs, there were several offices and about half a dozen large classrooms, complete with blackboards, world maps, and wall signs preaching school discipline: CLEAN BLACKBOARD AND CHALK TRAY AFTER CLASS. One classroom was lined with wall sockets, wiring along the floor, and other evidence that it had once been an audio room with earphones at each desk. Someone had left magazines on a table—copies of *Police Chief*, *The Shooting Industry*, *American Firearms Industry*, and the *International Police Academy Review*. A Code of Professional Conduct, written in French, was posted in one hall. It was a kind

of pledge of allegiance for police officers. Other signs were in Spanish.

The secret schoolhouse was bare except for file folders strewn about on the first floor. The folders had been emptied, but they were still labelled and the labels proved to be the only clues. Ten folders were marked "SURVEILLANCE—INTERVIEWS". About 50 others carried the names of companies around the country, presumably firms with which INPOLSE did business. Finally, six folders were marked with the names of individuals, who turned out to have been instructors at the school.

The corporations and the instructors, plus independent

sources, provided us with hard evidence that International Police Services, Inc., operated for nearly 23 years as an arm of the CIA, under cover as a private firm. Part of its business was to export police wares to foreign police forces—guns, ammunition, nightsticks, handcuffs, holsters, uniforms, radios, and relatively unsophisticated kinds of bugging and surveillance equipment. But, according to INPOLSE officials, this export work was only a sideline to the larger task of education. Over the years, INPOLSE provided specialized training in police techniques to thousands of foreign policemen from 87 coun-

Continued on page 4

"Readers who that a woman need to pursue as a man does woman may hope of living fully." A Long page 6.

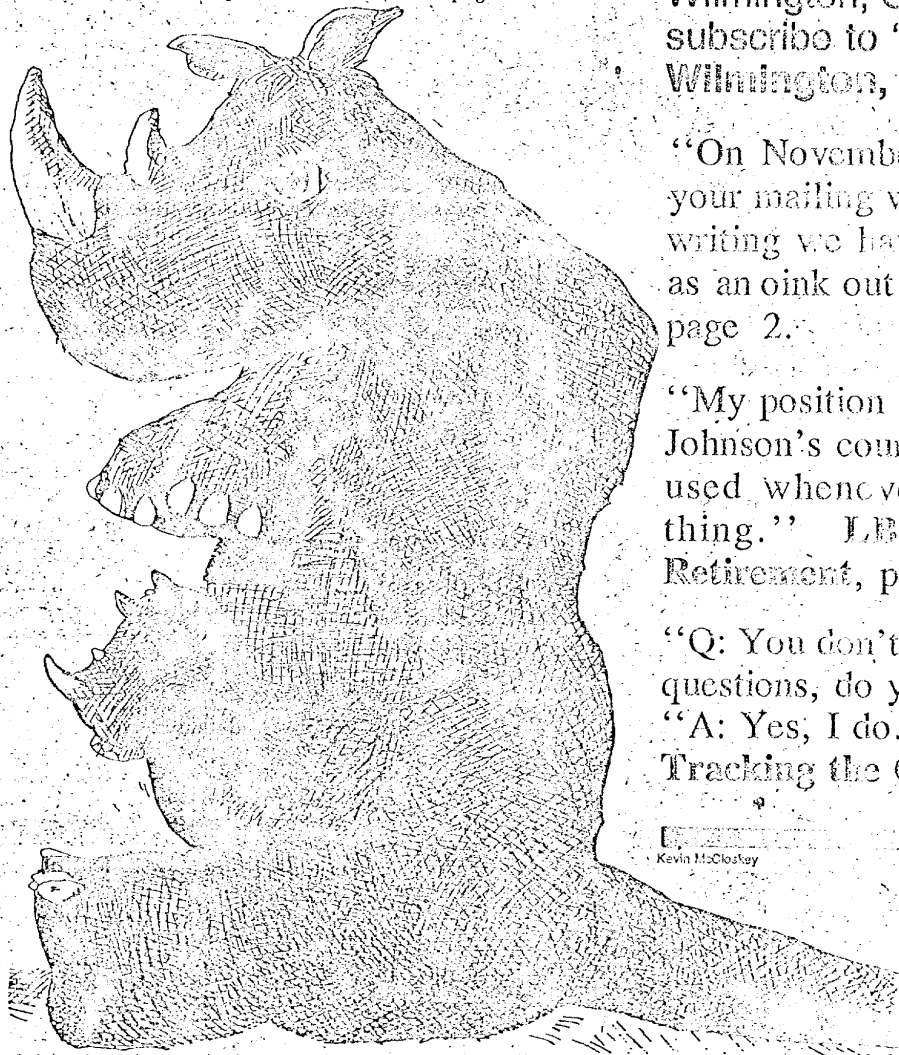
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"Q: You don't questions, do y  
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Tracking the C

Kevin McCloskey



Continued from page 1

ties around the world.

Philip Agee, a renegade ex-CIA operative nine years' experience in Latin America, described how, in 1965, he sent one of the Agency's Uruguayan agents, Alejandro Otero, to INPOLSE for training. Otero was then chief of intelligence for the Montevideo, Uruguay, police department. In an interview in London, Agee said that the spe-



INPOLSE vanished from this Washington townhouse, 10 blocks from the White House.

cial courses in Washington were designed "to jack up" Otero and "get him going against the Tumpamaros," the strongest group of Uruguayan revolutionaries at one time.

Agee's story begs comparison to the explosive film, "State of Siege," in which the Tumpamaros kill an American official of the AID Public Safety program, in the belief that the program is merely a front for CIA interference in Uruguay. The State Department, reacting to publicity around the film, has vehemently and consistently denied that the Public Safety programs have been used or controlled by the CIA.

Agee's real-life CIA experience indicates otherwise. He told us that AID's own International Police Academy, a school very similar to INPOLSE that is run out of an old trolley barn in Georgetown, was originally established by the CIA. He went on to say that CIA operatives regularly used the AID Public Safety programs for cover in Uruguay and elsewhere, and that the Agency took advantage of AID's contact with foreign police forces to recruit its agents from among the local cops. Agee recounted how his request to have Otero trained was forwarded to James Angleton's counterintelligence staff at CIA headquarters, and how Otero was assigned to 12 weeks at the International Police Academy followed by four weeks at the CIA's "private" school, INFOLSE.

Angleton is the same senior CIA official who resigned last month in the wake of disclosures that his office had been in large-scale domestic operations—scrambling in violation

stated—and three other CIA sources confirmed—that Angleton's counterintelligence office also controlled the CIA's worldwide police liaison, infiltration, and training programs. We have learned that the actual CIA operation that funneled people like Otero into training assignments was known by the acronym DTBAIL, and that a former Angleton staffer named Byron Engle moved from the CIA in 1962 to head the entire Office of Public Safety in AID.

"State of Siege," was banned from Washington's Kennedy Center two years ago because of its political overtones. The movie also provoked a heated debate in Congress over AID's police training programs. Most of the inquiry focused on AID's International Police Academy, which has now been legislated almost out of existence.

But none of the Congressional hearings or probes disclosed the operations of INPOLSE, even though it was older and at least as large as the Police Academy. Commercial cover worked so well for INPOLSE that it conducted classes, undetected, for 14 years at the old brownstone in the heart of Washington—10 blocks north of the White House, six blocks east of Embassy Row on Massachusetts

the CIA, paid more than \$100,000 in cash for the building.)

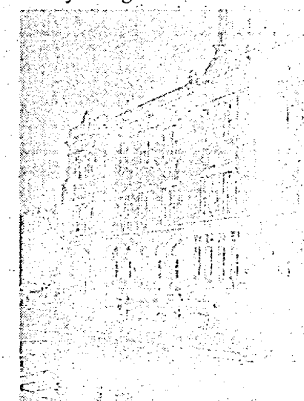
The school served as a parallel institution for the Police Academy, and several instructors referred to it as a kind of "graduate school" for IPA. Philip Agee said INPOLSE was used to conceal CIA training experts whom "you didn't want kicking around the Police Academy." One high CIA official, who retired two years ago from Agency headquarters here, observed that INPOLSE "performed services that IPA was not capable of performing."

We took the names of the corporations from the discarded file folders and showed them to people knowledgeable in the traffic of firearms and bugging devices in Washington's underworld. These people recognized some of the firms, many of them ran out of post office boxes in obscure cities, as dealers in police hardware and low-quality surveillance equipment. After examining our list, the State Department's Office of Munitions Control acknowledged that INPOLSE is registered as an exporter of munitions and other material requiring special government approval.

The State Department pondered our request for informa-

—showing how much the company had exported, and to for more than a month, without conclusion. We then filed an official request under the Freedom of Information Act, which by law requires a response within 10 days. The State Department has now been studying the matter for six weeks.

So we have not been able to determine the nature and volume of INPOLSE's arms exporting business. Several former INPOLSE officials said that the flow of exports was heavy during the 50s and early 60s but tapered off rapidly thereafter when large firearms firms moved into the police export business, attracted by all the government money being thrown around. In



The International Police Academy, fed thousands of foreign "graduate" training programs.

## The Sparring Blow by Blow

This is a portion of our conversation with Dennis Flemming, the last president of International Police Services.

- Q. This American from the CIA that we talked to said he came over to your place before he went to Vietnam and took a course in police methods. In the late 50s. He said he was with some other fellows from the CIA.
- A. I don't know. He may have that a little screwed up. Did he say us, or did he say International Police Academy.
- Q. No. He said International Police Services, on R St.
- A. Well, that was our address.
- Q. That's what got us interested.
- A. But I don't recall anything like that. We've had people coming in and checking in to see what the hell we do and that sort of thing, but I don't recall any training per se.
- Q. Well, in fact we were able to confirm that with one of your instructors.
- A. Uh, what instructor?
- Q. Well, I wouldn't give your name to somebody else, either. But it was someone who had a long relationship with your company.
- A. Well, as I say, we've had people from all kinds of government agencies come over to see what we're doing, but it doesn't ring a bell that we had a group of people from that outfit.
- Q. Did you have any connection with the CIA in the business?
- A. Not except as a friendly bystander.
- Q. I see. Cause, I guess, we have several sources who have said that you were what is known as a CIA proprietary. In other words, that the CIA helped to set you up and was running you during the course of your business.
- A. Well, here's the thing. People can say a whole lot of things. And I don't know what their purpose might be in saying them. But I'm talking to a guy I don't know from a hole of hay over the phone.
- Q. You don't really want to talk about it then?
- A. Look. My position is that I'm just the last boss of a losing cause. We lost some money in that company. It was a bad deal, and I don't feel like talking to anyone about it. You know. I'm a retired cop, and I'm a very private guy.
- Q. Where were you a cop? That must have been a long time ago.
- A. That's not really important.
- Q. I know, but.
- A. This thing's all history now. I'm unhappy that something I was involved in didn't turn out, but I'm not thinking about it now. I don't even talk about it to my brother.

Not all the former instructors of INPOLSE talked freely with us. This is one example.

- Q. I understand that you at one time had a connection with International Police Services, Inc. Is that right?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What did you do, teach courses for them?
- A. Yes.
- Q. I see. When were you there?

Q. It's for Harper's Weekly. We're I export of police equipment.

- A. And what's your name again?
- Q. Taylor Branch.
- Q. And you're with Harpers?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You don't mind my asking a few questions?
- A. Yes, I do.
- Q. Can I ask you why?
- A. Well, I just don't like to . . . If you're writing, I'll, maybe I'll answer it.
- Q. Could I come to see you?
- A. No, no, it's not necessary. Have you?
- A. Yes, we've been talking with some.
- Q. And who are they?
- A. Oh, Mr. McKinney and Duane and . . . for them after you retired from the . . .
- A. Yes.
- Q. What kind of course were you teaching?
- A. Uh, what's your number, and may I call you?
- Q. Uh, (gives numbers)
- A. All right. I might give you a call.

A portion of a conversation with a

- Q. Were you training Americans over there?
- A. No. All foreigners, Latin Americans about everywhere.
- Q. I see. But that's how we got interested in an American who had been trained at International Police Academy. You know anything about that?
- A. Let's see. Oh, yeah. You're right. That's right. We had a fellow from counterinsurgency and that sort of thing over there from CIA.
- Q. I see. Just that one fellow from the CIA?
- A. That's right. Who are you, again?
- Q. Was there just that one course for Americans?
- A. I can't recall. I know there was at least been two or more, but I really don't know.
- Q. Did the Americans mix with the foreigners?
- A. No, as I recall, we had the Americans.
- A. I see. So they didn't overlap.
- A. No, that's right.
- Q. Did the Americans have some of the equipment?
- A. Yes. They did have some of the equipment.
- Q. I see. What kind of counterinsurgency?
- A. Oh, I don't know that. That wasn't my area.
- Q. What did you teach?
- A. I gave a course on surveillance, . . .

three other CIA confirmed—that counterintelligence controlled the CIA's lie liaison, infiltrating programs, and that the actual on that funneled Piero into training was known by the JAIL, and that a top staffer named moved from the to head the entire lie Safety in AID. Ege," was banned nton's Kennedy s ago because of entances. The movie a heated debate in er AID's police rams. Most of the ed on AID's Inter- e Academy, which a legislated almost ce.

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from the homes of all three Harper's Weekly Washington editors. (In 1960, INPOLSE for the CIA, paid more than \$100,000 in cash for the building.)

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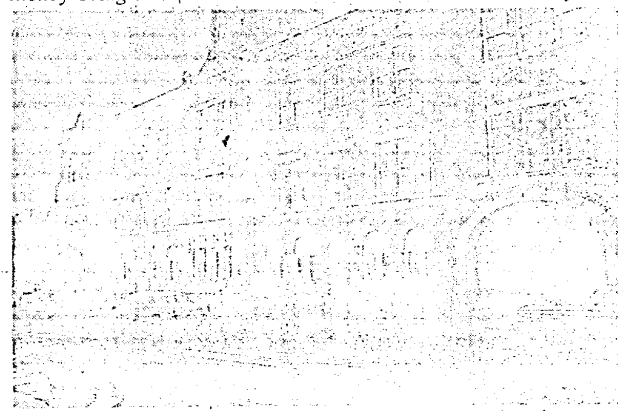
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INPOLSE did almost no export work and restricted itself to its own police training. A Vesson dealer, selling police revolvers to the students.

Since much of the school's training business was presumably financed through contracts with the AID Office of Public Safety, we went through AID records to find out how many foreign policemen had been sent there. We located contracts worth \$320,889.13, covering about a thousand students. But INPOLSE officials themselves said this represented only a small fraction of the company's work with AID over the years.

After further toil in the bureaucracy, we found an AID clerk who said that many IN-



The International Police Academy, recently abolished by Congress, fed thousands of foreign policemen into INPOLSE's "graduate" training programs.

## Sparring Blow by Blow

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A: And what's your name again?

Q: Taylor Branch.

Q: A: I you're with Harpers?

A: Yes.

Q: You don't mind my asking a few questions, do you?

A: Yes, I do.

Q: Can I ask you why?

A: Well, I just don't like to . . . If you'll write me a letter and put it in writing, I'll, maybe I'll answer it.

Q: Could I come to see you?

A: No, no, it's not necessary. Have you contacted anyone else?

A: Yes, we've been talking with some of the officers.

Q: And who are they?

A: Oh, Mr. McKinney and Duane and several of the others. Uh, you worked for them after you retired from the FBI?

A: Yes.

Q: What kind of course were you teaching?

A: Uh, what's your number, and maybe I'll call you back.

Q: Uh, (gives numbers)

A: All right. I might give you a call. (hangs up.)

A portion of a conversation with an ex-instructor from INPOLSE.

Q: Were you training Americans over there, too?

A: No. All foreigners, Latin America, Africa, Asia, Southeast Asia, just about everywhere.

Q: I see. But that's how we got interested in the story in the first place. We talked to an American who had been with the CIA, who said that he had been trained at International Police before he went to Vietnam. Would you know anything about that?

A: Let's see. Oh, yeah. You're right. But I wasn't engaged in it, myself.

That's right. We had a fellow from the Philippines who taught them counterinsurgency and that sort of thing. You're right. They had a group over there from CIA.

Q: I see. Just that one fellow from the Philippines.

A: That's right. Who are you, again?

Q: Was there just that one course for the fellows from the Agency?

A: I can't recall. I know there was at least that one group. There might have been two or more, but I really don't know.

Q: Did the Americans mix with the foreigners, or did they keep them separate?

A: No, as I recall, we had the Americans in between the foreign classes.

A: I see. So they didn't overlap.

A: No, that's right.

Q: Did the Americans have some of the same instructors?

A: Yes. They did have some of the same.

Q: I see. What kind of counter-insurgency were they teaching?

A: I gave a course on surveillance, informants, that sort of thing. Regular

INFOLSE records were "missing" from the files. For example, all the financial records of the worldwide contract during the Vietnam era were not there. The contract covered the years 1963-70. Obviously, the AID records are hopelessly incomplete, and another Freedom of Information request for the remaining contracts has been pending since early December.

Even if the AID contracts turn up, they will not tell the full story of INFOLSE's activities. According to a former officer of the company, AID was often bypassed altogether in contracts directly between INFOLSE and foreign governments and police departments. These relationships have proved impossible to enumerate thus far, as have the relationships between INFOLSE and American agents receiving special training. All former INFOLSE officers have vigorously denied that the company ever trained Americans, but one ex-CIA operative said that he himself took a counter-insurgency course there in the late 60s before going to Vietnam for operations that included working closely with the Vietnamese police in the Phoenix program.

A former instructor at INFOLSE confirmed the fact that Americans had been trained there, recalling "at least one" group of agents under the tutelage of a guerrilla expert from the Philippines, Napoleon Valeriano. We have established that INFOLSE used the services of Valeriano, who distinguished himself in CIA agent Edward Lansdale's campaign against the Huk rebellion in the Philippines during the fifties. Lansdale became legendary as "The Ugly American," and Valeriano later seemed to turn up wherever there were concentrations of jungle, insurgents, and CIA agents. He helped train the CIA's Cubans for the Bay of Pigs expedition, and subsequently helped train counterinsurgents for Vietnam.

The former officers of INFOLSE denied that the firm had connections with the CIA at all. Frank Hofmes, its first presi-

dent refused even to discuss the matter unless we would tell him what we had given us our leads. He and the other officers painted the police training experience as a relic from an old era, bygone and uninteresting.

To some extent they are right. INFOLSE is recently dead, and the International Police Academy is scheduled to close in February—in accordance with an amendment proposed by Senator James Abourezk (D-S.D.) and adopted by Congress. A just-retired high-ranking CIA official, with direct knowledge of police training matters, said that IPA had been "turned over to AID . . . that is, really, turned over" by the Agency in the last couple of years, anyway.

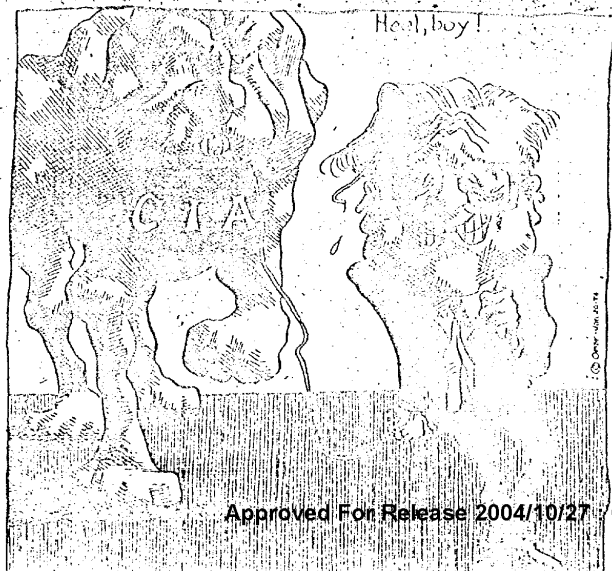
The era of large, Washington-based, CIA-sponsored training schools for foreign policemen is ending after a run of many years. But this does not mean that the Agency is now without methods to penetrate and train the police and security establishments of foreign countries, or without the means to recruit foreign officials for use in American intelligence programs and covert operations.

The new law contains two loopholes large enough to fly a U-2 through. One, for which CIA Director Colby personally lobbied, allows the CIA itself to continue training foreign police. (Colby assured the Congressmen that it would not be done too much.) The other loophole exempts programs for training foreign officials in narcotics control. Already the word is out in Washington that significant numbers of CIA operatives are moving over to the Drug Enforcement Administration, following the bureaucratic winds. And no one knows when we will find out which of the CIA's other proprietaries—there are hundreds in this country—is carrying on the INFOLSE tradition.

Taylor Branch

John Marks

Taylor Branch is a Washington editor of the Weekly. John Marks is an associate of the Center for National Security Studies in Washington.



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## Places, Please

### The Effects of Architecture on Behavior

The story is told of Winston Churchill who, when faced with the opportunity to rebuild the bombed-out House of Commons so that it would contain as many seats as there were members, decided instead to rebuild it as it was before the war—some 200 seats short of the 630 required. Why? Because the wily Churchill realized that only by overcrowding the hall for important debates, forcing members to sit and stand in the aisles, could he get the right kind of free-flowing interaction and excitement.

Apparently Churchill understood a phenomenon that behavioral scientists have been investigating for years—that space affects people just outside the realm of their conscious awareness. Sequences of spaces and lighting types and levels are often used by architects and profit-minded businessmen to cause certain responses. A church, for example, is usually planned to lead you through a carefully designed line of space experiences—from the street, up steps, into a darkly lit vestibule—and then suddenly "explode" into a high-ceilinged place of worship. A supermarket and a dime store share one goal—to cause you to spend money. The space is bright and colorful to call attention to the merchandise. In fact, it is usually designed to be too bright for comfort, in order to discourage browsing and to encourage a high turnover of people and merchandise. For better or worse, it seems our behavior can be guided by the arrangement of space. Some examples:

\* Many people who enter a hospital as patients or visitors feel anxious, which stems from the need to orient oneself in an unfamiliar, often threatening setting. To help allay

extraordinary amount of time and effort on developing an elaborate, color-coded graphic sign system, starting in each lobby and extending to every corridor, hallway and door in the building. Capet color-coded supergraphic symbols, door identification markers are used as "language." Not only is all this helpful for finding one's way about, but it imparts to the visitor a feeling of concern on the administration's part.

\* The office work space is another area of great behavioral interest. The open-plan, with shoulder- or head-height partitions dividing a large space into individual work stations, has in tens of thousands of instances replaced the enclosed office, which tends to isolate the occupant from what is going on around him and encourage a feeling of pyramidal hierarchy many corporations are trying to bring down. In an open office, each worker has a work station, equipped with work surfaces, storage and communications. The work station concept also reflects the constant change typical of many firms as teams of workers focus on a particular project and then disperse and reassemble in different teams as a new project comes along.

\* The arrangement of tables in a

### American Ontology

Schmidt's: Gives you a thirst for a Metropolitan: We sell life insurance. Aurora: We're for real. IBM: Not just data, reality. Liberty Mutual: We're fighting. Sylvania Color: About as close to

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
TO: <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 20px;"></span>		C/OLG
ROOM NO. 7D35	BUILDING Headquarters <i>N</i>	
REMARKS:		
<p>For your information. Article from the January 24, 1975 issue of Harper's Weekly.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><i>RSK</i></p>		
FROM: <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 150px; height: 40px;"></span>		
ROOM NO. GG-1904	BUILDING Hdqs.	EXTENSION <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 50px; height: 20px;"></span>

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REPLACES FORM 36-8  
WHICH MAY BE USED.

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